

**Council on Postsecondary Education
Committee on Equal Opportunities
April 16, 2007**

The Partnership Agreement and The Kentucky Plan

The following information focuses on the Partnership Agreement and the Kentucky Plan activities since the Committee on Equal Opportunities met February 2007.

Partnership Agreement: There is no change in the status of the partnership with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.

Statewide Diversity Plan: The Council has reached agreement with the presidents and fellows of Harvard College on behalf of the Civil Rights Project, effective March 5, 2007, to conduct a statewide diversity study to be completed March 1, 2008. The cost of the contract is \$200,000, funded by a contribution of \$20,000 from each institution and the Council.

The Commonwealth is contracting with the Harvard Civil Rights Project to design and conduct a statewide diversity study for public postsecondary education in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The study is intended to produce targeted research that translates into policies for diversity planning. The study will result in recommendations on policies or changes in policy necessary at the Council and each institution to ensure that Kentucky complies with the standards articulated by the Supreme Court in the Michigan cases *Grutter and Gratz*, Kentucky, and the federal law. Further, the study will:

1. Identify the mission-based governmental interest that the Commonwealth, the Council, and each public postsecondary education institution has in developing and implementing a diversity plan, including a clear statement of the value of diversity and supporting facts that are sufficient to meet the requirements of the Michigan cases, federal, and Kentucky law.
2. Assess the extent to which race-neutral alternatives would be workable in implementing each component of a diversity plan, tied directly to Kentucky results.
3. To the extent that actions taken under a diversity plan may include the necessary use of race or national origin, articulate the policies and policy changes necessary to ensure that the diversity plan is narrowly tailored as required by the Supreme Court, Kentucky, and federal law.
4. Identify the appropriate characteristics for Kentucky's diversity plan, i.e., the areas to be evaluated, measured, and acted upon. Without being limited to these activities, the diversity plan should address the role of recruitment, admissions, financial aid, retention, support services, and integration of diversity values with academic, residential life, extracurricular activities, and other campus based

programs. It should also address the role of Kentucky public postsecondary education in improving the K-12 public school system, closing achievement gaps among groups of students, increasing the development and graduation of highly qualified teachers for work in Kentucky schools, and improving the readiness of public school graduates for postsecondary education.

The Civil Rights Project will use a single team of researchers to conduct the analyses and develop the report and recommendations. The team is comprised of the following persons: Dr. Gary Orfield, (CRP Director) the principal in charge; Dr. Patricia Marin (CRP); Professor Catherine L. Horn (University of Houston); William Kidder, Esq. (University of California at Davis); Professor Jose F. Moreno (California State University at Long Beach); Professor William T. Trent (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign); and Professor John T. Yun (University of California at Santa Barbara).

CEO Campus Visits: The CEO conducted a campus visit at Kentucky State University February 20-21, 2007. A final report is included in the April 16 agenda for committee review and action.

The committee conducted a campus visit at Madisonville Community and Technical College March 26, 2007. A final report will be included on the June 18 agenda for committee review and action.

Governor's Minority Student College Preparation Program: Morehead State University will host the 2007 Annual Statewide Conference of the GMSCPP. The conference is scheduled to be held in Morehead, June 5-6, 2007.

The University of Louisville will host the 2006 Academically Proficient African American High School Junior and Senior Conference. The conference is scheduled to be held at UofL, June 8-9, 2007.

CEO Meeting Dates: The remaining CEO meeting dates for 2007 are June 18, August 13 (retreat), and October 15. Meetings are scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. (EST) at the Council offices in Frankfort, unless otherwise noted.

Staff preparation by Rana Johnson